

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method of processing a data stream with a computer system, the method comprising:

- receiving the data stream using a browser application;
- detecting a content type of data in the data stream;
- temporarily overriding a default rendering process otherwise associated with the content type detected for the data in the data stream by associating a particular rendering process with the data stream based on the type of data in the data stream; and
- routing the data stream to the particular rendering process.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the content type of data is a Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension (MIME) type.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the default rendering process is identified in a registry of the computer system.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the data stream is received in response to a request from the browser application.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein temporarily overriding the default rendering process includes:

- discriminating among internal and external instances of the browser application used to receive the data stream; and
- temporarily overriding the default rendering process if the browser application is an internal instance.

6. The method of claim 5 further comprising routing the data stream to the default rendering process if the browser application is an external instance.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein the default rendering process is identified in a registry of the computer, and wherein temporarily overriding the default rendering process includes

3 supplementing the registry of the computer with the particular rendering process if the  
4 browser application is an internal instance.

1 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising:  
2 processing the data stream with the temporary rendering process; and  
3 upon completing of the processing, disassociating the temporary rendering process  
4 with the type of data in the data stream.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising redefining the content type after routing  
2 the data stream to prevent subsequent processing of the data stream by the default rendering.

1 10. A method of processing a data stream with a computer system, comprising:  
2 receiving a data stream using a browser application;  
3 identifying a stream type for the data stream; and  
4 directing the data stream away from a data process designated as a default by the  
5 computer system based on the data type identified for the data stream.

1 11. The method of claim 10 further comprising determining whether a browser is  
2 embedded as an internal instance of a software application, such that the data stream is  
3 directed to a data process other than the default when the browser is determined to be an  
4 internal instance.

1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein the data type is a Multipurpose Internet Mail  
2 Extensions (MIME) type.

1 13. A method comprising:  
2 calling a data stream using a browser running on a computer system;  
3 detecting a first type of data associated with the data stream called by the browser;  
4 and  
5 redefining the first type of data as a second type of data.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the first type of data and the second type of data are  
2 Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME) standard types.

1 15. The method of claim 14 further comprising loading a MIME filter into an operating  
2 system of the computer.

1 16. The method of claim 15 further comprising receiving notification in the browser that  
2 a data stream is available for filtering by the MIME filter.

1 17. The method of claim 15 further comprising activating multimedia subsystem player  
2 running on the computer system to render the data stream.

1 18. The method of claim 17 further comprising passing the data stream to the player.

1 19. A computer program for processing a data stream with a computer system, stored on  
2 a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for:  
3 receiving the data stream using a browser application;  
4 detecting a content type of data in the data stream;  
5 temporarily overriding a default rendering process otherwise associated with the  
6 content type detected for the data in the data stream by associating a particular rendering  
7 process with the data stream based on the type of data in the data stream; and  
8 routing the data stream to the particular rendering process.

1 20. The computer program of claim 19 wherein the content type of data is a Multipurpose  
2 Internet Mail Extension (MIME) type.

1 21. The computer program of claim 19 wherein the default rendering process is identified  
2 in a registry of the computer system.

1 22. The computer program of claim 19 wherein the data steam is received in response to  
2 a request from the browser application.

1     23.     The computer program of claim 19 wherein temporarily overriding the default  
2     rendering process includes:  
3             discriminating among internal and external instances of the browser application used  
4     to receive the data stream; and  
5             temporarily overriding the default rendering process if the browser application is an  
6     internal instance.

1     24.     The computer program of claim 23 further comprising routing the data stream to the  
2     default rendering process if the browser application is an external instance.

1     25.     The computer program of claim 23 wherein the default rendering process is identified  
2     in a registry of the computer, and wherein temporarily overriding the default rendering  
3     process includes supplementing the registry of the computer with the particular rendering  
4     process if the browser application is an internal instance.

1     26.     The computer program of claim 25 further comprising:  
2             processing the data stream with the temporary rendering process; and  
3             upon completing of the processing, disassociating the temporary rendering process  
4     from the type of data in the data stream.

1     27.     The computer program of claim 19 further comprising redefining the content type  
2     after routing the data stream to prevent subsequent processing of the data stream by the  
3     default rendering.

1     28.     A computer program for processing a data stream with a computer system, stored on  
2     a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for:  
3             receiving a data stream using a browser application;  
4             identifying a stream type for the data stream; and  
5             directing the data stream away from a data process designated as a default by the  
6     computer system based on the data type identified for the data stream.

1 29. The computer program of claim 28 further comprising determining whether a browser  
2 is embedded as an internal instance of a software application such that the data stream is  
3 directed to a data process other than the default when the browser is determined to be an  
4 internal instance.

1 30. The computer program of claim 28 wherein the data type is a Multipurpose Internet  
2 Mail Extensions (MIME) type.

1 31. A computer program for processing a data stream with a computer system, stored on  
2 a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for:  
3 calling a data stream using a browser running on a computer system;  
4 detecting a first type of data associated with the data stream called by the browser;  
5 and  
6 redefining the first type of data as a second type of data.

1 32. The computer program of claim 31 wherein the first type of data and the second type  
2 of data are Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME) standard types.

1 33. The computer program of claim 32 further comprising loading a MIME filter into an  
2 operating system of the computer.

1 34. The computer program of claim 33 further comprising receiving notification in the  
2 browser that a data stream is available for filtering by the MIME filter.

1 35. The computer program of claim 33 further comprising activating multimedia  
2 subsystem player running on the computer system to render the data stream.

1 36. The computer program of claim 35 further comprising passing the data stream to the  
2 player.